

# AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

August 12, 2008  
Town Room, Town Hall

## Minutes

11 people present

**Members:** Vice Chair, Ruth Hazzard; Sarah Swartz; Jaime Tidlund; Linda Hess; Pat Wagner. Non-voting liaison from Planning Board: Susan Pynchon;

**Staff liaison:** Dave Ziomek.

**Guests:** Ruth Eckberg, concerned citizen & Commons Group member; Tanya Cushman, partner of Mike Waskiewicz, co-owner of J&J Farm; Denise Barberet, Planning Board member; Diana Stein, Select Board liaison.

**June meeting minutes** will be transcribed from Pat Wagner's notes and will be available soon.

July meeting there was no quorum and therefore no meeting. Ms. Stein said the new web sight will be up and available this Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and all approved minutes can be viewed there, with a new link to *meeting minutes*. Dave stressed the importance of submitting our minutes in a timely fashion. A draft of the meeting's minutes can be emailed to meeting members for approval at the next meeting. After discussion, it was felt that this would not be in violation of the 'open meeting law'.

**Re: Ag. Comm. membership & vacancies:** Susan Pynchon is approved as a *non-voting* Ag. Comm. member from the Planning Board. Pauline Lannon, co-owner of Atkins Farm Market is interested in becoming a member. Sarah Swartz has been sworn in for a 3 year term. Linda Hess & Pat Wagner's terms will expire June 30, 2009. We now have 9 voting members. Dave will verify.

**Farmers Market:** We should be aware of issues that arise like the recent one between Board of Health and Farm Market Members as to temperatures & serving of perishable foods.

**Kenderick Park Committee:** discussion of having an Ag. Comm. member serving on main (15 members) and the 4 sub committees, i.e. public market sub committee. To serve, a Citizen Action Form needs to be filled out. Ag Comm. member Casey Steinberg is listed on the Public Market sub committee. Dave said the main committee appears to be full. He will check the status. Market committee will meet soon. It was moved & seconded to see that Town Manager is aware that Ag. Comm. feels there is a need for a liaison from our commission to serve on the Kendrick Park Committee. Motion passed 5-0. Dave will check w/ Casey and make sure he can attend Public Market sub committee meetings.

**Nielson Project on South East St.** update: ZBA hearing is tonight, the 12<sup>th</sup>. Fencing, access to APR land, & drainage/vernal pool will be discussed and were discussed by the Ag. Comm. Ruth stressed the importance of an informed Ag. Comm. member being physically present at these hearings, to support the letters we have written, and our views on the issues. Susan P. our planning board liaison stressed the importance of a good dialogue, & will read our letters to her committee.

**Proposed Meadow St. climate controlled storage facility:** Dave read an open invitation from the Planning Board for us to attend the hearing regarding issues and concerns on Sept. 3, 2008 at 7:05 at the town hall. Sarah Swartz agreed to attend. Perhaps more will be able to attend. Ruth & Linda will be out of town. Ruth read from the by-laws, citing many that the proposed development seems to violate. Ms. Cushman also cited them in her letter to the planning board. Her letter will be addressed at the Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting (hearing?). Sarah noted the building's footprint is 3x the size of town hall. 'Wind-tunnel-effect, view impairment, traffic, cow comfort, noise, visual impact, change of use after permits are issued are all issues of concern. Guest, Ms. Eckberg stressed the importance of these concerns.

**Open Meeting Law Violation:** Defined by Denise as "violation occurs between committee members discussing open meeting issues without a quorum present." Susan & Dave stressed the importance of providing each committee member with information *at the same time*. Meeting to discuss on Sept 15, 2008. All invited.

**Update on intermittent stream (ditch) on Meadow Street.** Dave said NKCS funding is being sought to improve the stream which will, in effect improve the water quality of the Conn. & Mill Rivers, as it eventually runs into them.

**Latest APR parcel** to be approved: 45 acres behind Auction Barn.

**Next meeting:** September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Farm 'Fair' on town common on Oct 3, 2009 will be discussed.